

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Abstract

A debarking mechanism for the ~~excortication or pretreatment of trees for separately performed final barking and for the expulsion of at least some of the removed barks from a wood flow passing through the debarking mechanism, the debarking mechanism~~ including a number of rotatable debarking shafts extending parallel to an advancing direction (A) of the trees to be fed therethrough, which are provided with a number of teeth extending beyond the circumferential surface of the shaft ~~and adapted to strip bark off the presently processed trees transversely to the lengthwise direction of the trees and at the same time to convey the trees transversely relative to said shafts, and the shafts together with the teeth thereof, being adapted to constitute at least a section of a support surface, upon which the presently processed trees travel through the debarking mechanism, and the debarking shafts being adapted to each other in such a way that the presently processed trees make a circular motion (C) in the debarking mechanism, in which motion the trees are forced upon the support surface constituted by the debarking shafts effected by the rotatory~~rotary motion of the debarking shafts ~~in their turn into the upper position, from which they roll down above the other trees in the debarking machine into the lower position. The uppermost debarking shaft has been fitted together with a guiding surface, the surface together with the uppermost debarking shaft forming a slot convergent in the direction of rotation of the debarking shaft.~~